

To the Editor:

RE: Trump's corrupt dealings with Turkey are some of the most startling stories in Bolton's book

David Ignatius invoked my name, and the association I chair, several times in a recent column. But it is baseless to suggest that the Turkey-US Business Council (TAIK) or I receive favorable treatment from the President or hold influence over him.

President Trump and I met in 2008, long before he was a presidential candidate. We worked together once and remained friendly. I have not received special access or gains as a result. Communication between myself or TAIK and the US government occurs through proper transparent channels. We make all our activities public, despite knowing the type of coverage those disclosures prompt.

TAIK's mission is to advance trade and economic cooperation between our countries. We are not state-sponsored, as Ignatius asserts, but are entirely member-funded. Our members include recognizable companies such as Microsoft, Apple and Ford. Even Godiva is owned by a TAIK member.

Far from the shadows, we market our export industries, encourage US-to-Turkey imports, and promote investment. We believe the potential for trade growth is enormous and would benefit both economies, especially as the US decouples from China.

Our mission is rooted in a belief that a strong US-Turkey relationship is positive for world stability. We will keep working toward that mission, even in the face of columns like Mr. Ignatius' which are unfit to print.

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